

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 DHA-02 /108 W
-----222203Z 013699 /64

O 221946Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3373

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA REFINERY COMPANY (LRC)

REF: A. STATE 8458, B. MONROVIA 525, ET AL.

1. IN COURSE OF BREAKFAST MEETING TODAY, JAN 22, WITH
PRESIDENT TOLBERT, ATTENDED ONLY BY FONMIN DENNIS, I RAISED
SUBJECT OF LRC AND MENTIONED MY CONCERNS AS INDICATED
IN REF B. DURING MEETING EMBASSY CONTACTED ME BY RADIO
TO INFORM ARRIVAL OF REF A WHICH WAS LATER BROUGHT TO
BENTOL CITY BY DUTY OFFICER.

2. IN MY FIRST REPRESENTATION DURING BREAKFAST PRESIDENT
TOLBERT SEEMED GENUINELY DISTURBED AT COMMERCE MINISTER'S
ARREST THREATS AND SAID THESE MADE COMPLETELY WITHOUT
PRESIDENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND THAT NO ONE WOULD BE THROWN
INTO "SOUTH BEACH" (LOCAL PRISON) WITHOUT PRESIDENTIAL
KNOWLEDGE. HE ASKED ME TO SUBMIT BRIEF NOTE VERBALE
ON MONDAY A.M., 24 JAN, OUTLINING SITUATION SO THAT HE
COULD UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION.

3. AFTER RECEIVING REF A I HAD OCCASION TO TAKE UP SUB-
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STANCE OF POINTS IN PARAS 8, 9 AND 10 AND THIS INFORMATION
SEEMED TO HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT ON PRESIDENT. HE SAID
THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF LRC SITUATION
FOLLOWING SERIES OF FIRES BUT THAT SUCH INVESTIGATION
WAS TO BE CONDUCTED IMPARTIALLY AND NOT WITH ANY PREJUDGMENT
AS TO GUILT. HE SAID HE HAD EVEN REQUESTED ASSISTANCE
FROM IVORY COAST SO AS TO HAVE IMPARTIAL ARBITOR BUT THAT

IVORY COAST INVESTIGATORS HAD NOT YET ARRIVED.

4. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE UP MATTER IMMEDIATELY WITH MINISTER PHILLIPS (WHO WAS WAITING TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ON OTHER MATTERS) AND ASKED AGAIN FOR BRIEF NOTE EARLY MONDAY SO HE COULD PURSUE THIS WITH DENNIS AND OTHER OFFICIALS. HE ASSURED ME THAT GOL WOULD PROCEED WITH FAIRNESS IN RESOLVING LRC ISSUE AND THAT MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE ULTIMATELY REFERRED TO HIM FOR DISPOSITION. HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF GLAZIER'S VISIT AND PROMISED FULL COOPERATION.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT APPEARED GENUINELY SHOCKED AT BEHAVIOR OF DENNIS AND SEEMED DETERMINED THAT ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED IN A WAY SO AS NOT TO IMPACT ON GOL'S HOPES TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, PRESIDENT MADE MY PRESENTATION OF CASE VERY EASY BY BEGINNING BREAKFAST MEETING WITH PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ON ""HUMANISTIC CAPITALISM" AS CHOSEN PATH FOR LIBERIA AND AS A PATH OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED BY MORE LDC'S. I STRESSED IN MY REPRESENTATION USG'S "INTERESTED NEUTRALITY", SAYING THAT WE HAD NO INTEREST IN INTRUDING OURSELVES INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THESE SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE TECHNICIANS. THE PRESIDENT AGREED WITH THIS BUT WAS EQUALLY ANXIOUS THAT CLIMATE BE MADE MORE POSITIVE AND CONDUCIVE TO EQUITABLE CONCLUSION. CARTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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